GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture
Maganti Shri Murali Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) along with the facilities provided under the scheme;

(b) the criteria laid down to include district/development block and the total number of districts/development blocks covered under the Mission, State-wise;

(c) whether in the wake of climate change, any step has been taken to innovate, diversify and grow fruits, vegetables, flowers and other horticulture crops in the non-traditional areas in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made thereunder; and

(e) the other steps taken to promote Horticulture in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 141 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH MARCH, 2016.

(a): This Ministry has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) w.e.f. 2014-15 for the holistic development of horticulture sector in the country covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. Mission subsumes National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH) Nagaland. All States including Himalayan states and Union Territories (UTs) are covered under MIDH.

The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables through various interventions. Activities such as production of planting material, vegetable seed production, coverage of area with improved cultivars, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including insitu generation of organic inputs are taken up for development of fruits and vegetables. Capacity buildings of farmers and technologies are also an integral part of MIDH for adopting improved technologies. The Scheme also envisages creation of infrastructure for post harvest management (like pack houses, cold storage units, pre-cooling units and refrigerated vans) and marketing for better price realization of produce.

Contdâ€¦2/-

(b): For inclusion of districts, NHM envisages a cluster approach for development of horticultural crops, in accordance with their comparative advantage based on agro climatic conditions, potential for development and marketing opportunities. A total of three hundred and eighty four (384) districts under National Horticulture Mission are covered in 23 States/UTs. All the districts of North-Eastern and three Himalayan States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir are covered under HMNEH scheme. State-wise number of districts covered under NHM is at Annexure-A

(c) & (d): In order to face the challenges in the wake of climate change, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken steps

to mitigate the effect of climate change on crops and has implemented a project viz., National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The major objectives of NICRA are as under:

(i) To enhance the resilience of Indian agriculture covering crops, livestock and fisheries to climatic variability and climate change through development and application of improved production and risk management technologies.
(ii) To demonstrate site specific technology packages on farmers' fields for adapting to current climate risks.
(iii) To enhance the capacity of scientists and other stakeholders in climate resilient agricultural research and its application.

The major achievements of the NICRA are as under:

(i) Selection of promising crop genotypes and livestock breeds with greater tolerance to climatic stress.
Contdâ€¦3/-

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(ii) Best practices for climate resilience have been demonstrated in 100 vulnerable districts.
(iii) Infrastructure at key research institutes for climatic change research strengthened. Adequately trained scientific man power to take up climate change research in the country and empowered farmers to cope up with climate variability.
National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which is one of the eight mission under the National Action Plan on climate change, aims at making agriculture more productive, sustainable, remunerative and climate resilient by promoting location specific integrated farming system, soil and moisture conservation measures, comprehensive soil health management, efficient water management practices and mainstreaming rainfed technologies. Under NMSA, seventy two (72) climate resilient varieties of crops have been identified/released in 2015-16. Rainfed Area Development (RAD), a component under NMSA aims at promoting Integrated Farming System for enhancing livelihood opportunities and to mitigate the impacts of drought, flood or other weather extreme events.

(e): Under MIDH, following steps have been taken to promote Horticulture in the country:
â€¢ Production and supply of quality planting material continue to be a high priority area for horticulture development during XII Plan. In this context, special emphasis is being laid for establishment of Hi-tech nurseries having provision for mother /scion blocks of improved varieties, good quality rootstock banks and hi-tech green house. Besides, planting material is channelized through accredited nurseries. National Horticulture Board and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH) Nagaland have taken up the task of accrediting the nurseries.
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â€¢ Establishment of crop based Centres of Excellence encouraged in each state to serve as a hub for supply of planting material and dissemination of technology to farmers.
â€¢ Horticulture is emerging as a prospective sector for replacing tobacco cultivation. High priority is given for promoting remunerative horticulture crops for weaning away tobacco cultivation.
â€¢ Area expansion programme has been linked to availability of quality planting material through accredited nurseries and tissue culture units. Importance is given for covering more area under vegetable hybrids and export oriented varieties of ginger, turmeric & chillies. High density planting and tree canopy management of orchards, right from establishment stage, is given focus to derive better yield. Besides, an integrated approach is being encouraged for taking up drip irrigation / mulching and other support systems required for cultivation of fruit and plantation crops.
â€¢ Rejuvenation of old and unproductive orchards continue to be a focus area for enhancing productivity, profitability and sustainability.
â€¢ Major thrust is on protected cultivation, particularly of high value crops, in green house, shade net house, plastic mulching etc.
â€¢ Creation of infrastructure for post harvest managements and value addition also continue with focus on creating cold chain networks.
â€¢ Setting up of markets infrastructure has been linked with reforms in APMC Act, for permitting direct marketing of horticulture produce.
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â€¢ Mobilization of farmers into producer groups/organizations is another priority area aimed at strengthening their negotiating power, besides functioning as viable farmer groups involved in production and marketing of horticulture produce.
â€¢ Human resource development is being given thrust for capacity building of farmers, horticulture entrepreneurs / supervisors and field functionaries.
â€¢ Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), states are given fund for development of horticulture. States may utilize this fund to develop horticulture in the non-MIDH districts/development blocks also.